GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
CONVERSION OF COCONUT INTO VIRGIN OIL
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the value addition of coconut into virgin oil; and

(b) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The Government is taking various steps through the Coconut Development Board (CDB) to encourage value addition of coconut into virgin coconut oil. The CDB & Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore have developed a technology for production of virgin coconut oil from coconut milk by centrifugal process.

The Board is providing financial assistance to entrepreneurs for setting up of processing units for production of virgin coconut oil under Technology Mission on Coconut. So far, financial support have been extended for setting up of 16 virgin coconut oil production units with a capacity to process 38000 nuts per day.

(b): Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) is the purest form of coconut oil and contains natural vitamin E and rich in nutrients and aroma. It has good export potential and fetched higher market price than traditional coconut oil. Due to high nutritional content, the VCO can be used as a food supplement and has wide application in neutraceuticals and cosmetics industry and provides an excellent opportunity to small coconut growers for improving their income.